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Message Text

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65
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 /014 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPE:PLLAASE:FF
APPROVED BY:EUR/RPE:PLLAASE
---------- 028978
R 011155Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL OECD CAPITALS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OECD PARIS 28607 ACTION SECSTATE, BOGOTA, MANILA DTD 29 SEP 76.

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 28607

DEPT PASS TREASURY; MANILA PASS SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, AORG, CO
SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN APPLICATION FOR OECD MEMBERSHIP

REFS: (A) STATE 240099, (B) STATE 231184, (C) STATE 240671

1. SUMMARY. AT SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING ALL HEADS OF DEL EXCEPT SPANISH OPPOSED INVITING COLOMBIA TO JOIN OECD. DEBATE FOCUSSED LARGELY ON U.S. INTERVENTION DRAWN FROM REFS AAND B, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED IN MOST RESPECTS BY ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS. CONSENSUS EMERGED, THAT FORMAL, WRITTEN REJECTION OF THE COLOMBN APPLICATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN FAVOR OF ORAL STATEMENT BY VAN LENNEP TO COLOMBIAN FINANCE MINISTER AT UPCOMING MANILA IMF/IBRD MEETING TO EFFECT OECD NOT IN POSITION TO INVITE COLOM-BIA TO JOIN BUT LEAVING DOOR OPEN TO OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN OECD AND COLOMBIA. MAJORITY VIEW
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WAS TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF HOW TO PROCEED ON GENERAL

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ISSUE OF OECD'S RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER STATES (INCLUDING POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUE CLOSELY) UNTIL AFTER SECGEN'S RETURN FROM MANILA. END SUMMARY.

2. SECGEN OPENED HEADS OF DEL MEETING BY NOTING HE HAD EXPLAINED TO COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN JULY THAT OECD HAD NO PROVISION FOR "APPLICATIONS" FOR MEMBERSHIP AND THAT NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS COULD JOIN ONLY UPON UNANIMOUS INVITATION OF OECD COUNCIL, WHICH HE THOUGHT UNLIKELY. IN VIEW OF FACT COLOMBIA HAD NONETHELESS "APPLIED" FOR MEMBERSHIP, SECGEN RECOMMENDED HE BE AUTHORIZED TO SEND LETTER TO COLOMBIA CRUX OF WHICH WOULD BE TO STATE "CONSULTATIONS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE UNANIMITY IN THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION WITH REGARD TO INVITING THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO JOIN THE OECD." SPANISH REP IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGED SECGEN INITIATIVE ON GROUNDS REACTIONS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO COLOMBIAN INITIATIVE STILL UNCLEAR.

3. DURING SUBSEQUENT TOUR DE TABLE IRELAND, GERMANY, SPAIN, U.S., JAPAN, GREECE, UK, DENMARK, FRANCE AND SWEDEN INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN CONTACTED BILATERAL-LY BY COLOMBIANS. SPANISH REP INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERN-MENT HAD ALREADY INFORMED COLOMBIANS OF ITS SUPPORT FOR MEMBERSHIP AND WOULD SIMILARLY SUPPORT ANY LATIN ERICAN CANDIDACY. NO OTHER DEL INDICATED IT HAD RESPONDED FORMALLY TO DEMARCHE. IN MAJORITY OF BILATER-ALS COLOMBIA HAD CLEARLY INDICATED DESIRE TO BECOME MEMBER OF OECD. HOWEVER, IN CONTACTS WITH IRELAND AND UK COLOMBIA HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN "FORMAL RELATION-SHIP" WITH OECD, WHILE IN CONTACT WITH GERMANY COLOMBIA HAD ASKED ONLY FOR "LIENS D'INFORMATION" (INFORMATION LINKS) WITH OECD. SEVERAL OTHER REPS NOTED THAT COLOMBIANS APPEARED STILL UNFAMILIAR WITH NATURE OF AND PROCEDURE FOR ENTERING OECD AND UNCLEAR OVER WHAT PRECISELY THEY SOUGHT THROUGH OECD RELATIONSHIP. ACCORDINGLY MOST REPS FELT FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INFORM COLBIA RE NATURE AND PROCEDURES OF OECD AND TO DETERMINE MORE PRECISELY COLOMBIAN OBJECTIVES.
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4. U.S. REP (DCM KATZ) TOOK LEAD IN SUGGESTING POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION, DRAWING ON REFS A AND B (REF C WAS NOT RECEIVED IN TIME FOR MEETING). HE AGREED THAT OECD SHOULD NOT NOW INVITE COLOMBIA AS MEMBER BUT ARGUED THAT FORMAL REJECTION, OR ANYTHING APPROACHING THAT, SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE:

-- IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE MID-LEVEL

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LDCS TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES FULL PARTICIPANTS
IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND

-- COLOMBIANS HAVE APPARENTLY MADE SIGNIFICANT
POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND CONCERN FOR NORTH/SOUTH
RELATIONS REQUIRES US TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY.

HE INDICATED THAT U.S. THOUGHT IT BEST IF COLOMBIA COULD BE PERSUADED TO WITHDRAW OR AT LEAST NOT PRESS FOR COUNCIL ACTION ON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. WE WOULD PREFER THAT COLOMBIANS BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATIONS THROUGH FURTHER CONTACTS WITH SECGEN AND SECRETARIAT. U.S. REP URGED THAT SECGEN AVOID WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEET INFORMALLY WITH COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS OR FINMIN BOTERO IN MANILA. IN SUCH A CONVERSATION, VAN LENNEP SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT RESPONSE ON MEMBERSHIP IS NEGATIVE BUT AT SAME TIME WELCOME COLOMBIAN INTEREST IN OECD AND PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN ITS CHARTER AND ENCOURAGE COLOMBIA TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH OECD.

5. U.S. SUGGESTION DREW HIGHLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE AROUND TABLE. HOWEVER, WHILE AGREEING WITH MAIN THRUST OF U.S. INTERVENTION, MOST REPS THOUGHT IT IMPERATIVE THAT OECD BE CAUTIOUS IN OFFERING POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH COLOMBIA. UK DEL POINTED OUT COLOMBIAN APPLICATION MIGHT JUST BE "TIP OF ICEBERG" OF APPLICATIONS FROM NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES, WHILE FRANCE NOTED THAT IN 14 YEARS OECD HAD NOT SOLVED GENERAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY ARTICLE 12 (PERTAINING TO RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS) AND OUGHT NOT TO RUSH INTO HASTY DECISIONS WHICH IT MIGHT REGRET LATER. DANISH AMB STATED FLATLY THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM AT THIS STATE TO
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AUTHORIZE VAN LENNEP TO DISCUSS ANY FORM OF CONSULTATION WITH COLOMBIA BEYOND THAT GRANTED TO ANY NON-MEMBER WHO SO REQUEST, I.E., EXCHANGE OF PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS AND RARE, AD HOC SECRETARIAT BRIEFINGS. MAJORITY VIEW WAS THAT ANY "ALTERNATIVE" FORMS OF RELATIONSHIP OFFERED COLOMBIA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY BY COUNCIL AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR APPLICATION ON EQUAL BASIS TO NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES OTHER THAN COLOMBIA. IT WAS AGREED THAT, IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF COLOMBIAN AMB FROM PARIS UNTIL MID-OCTOBER, SECGEN SHOULD MAKE DEMARCHE ALONG LIHES OF U.S. SUGGESTION TO COLOMBIAN FINANCE MINISTER IN MANILA; HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH SECGEN WAS ENCOURAGED TO DRAW COLOMBIA OUT ON QUESTION OF ITS PRECISE OBJECTIVES WITH REGARD TO OECD AND TO NOTE THAT OECD IS CONSIDERING MODALITIES FOR MORE STRUCTURED RELA-

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TIONS WITH NON-MEMBERS, HE WAS URGED TO EXERCISE CAUTION IN OFFERING POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND OECD.

6. HEADS OF DEL AGREED IT NOW OPPORTUNE TO RE-EXAMINE GENERAL ISSUE OF OECD'S RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES, POSSIBLY BY ESTABLISHING SMALL COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON ISSUE. HOWEVER, MAJORITY VIEW WAS TO DELAY DECISION ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED ON THIS QUESTION UNTIL AFTER SECGEN'S RETURN FROM MANILA, IN PART BECAUSE HIS CONVERSATION WITH BOTERA MIGHT SHED FRUTHER LIGHT ON WHAT NON-MEMBERS DESIRE IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH OECD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE243216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:PLLAASE:FF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760372-0625
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761092/aaaadbtq.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 240099, 76 STATE 231184, 76 STATE 6
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COLOMBIAN APPLICATION FOR OECD MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: AORG, CO, OECD
To: OECD POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006